

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 OES-06 L-03 H-01 /077 W
-----150626Z 043702 /14

R 150522Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6074
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV UNEP
SUBJECT: SOVIET INTEREST IN WORKING MORE CLOSELY WITH US ON
UNEP MATTERS - A MULTILATERAL OR A BILATERAL INTEREST?

1. SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO KENYA AND PERMREP TO UNEP MIROSHNICHENKO
HOSTED A LUNCHEON FEBRUARY 11 FOR AMBASSADOR MARSHALL, US PERM-
REP TO UNEP NOZIGLIA AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR KAMMAN AT WHICH
HIS MAIN THEMES WERE COMPATIBILITY OF US-USSR INTERESTS IN UNEP
AND DESIRABILITY OF CLOSE CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION ON
OUR RESPECTIVE APPROACHES TO THE ORGANIZATION.

2. AMBASSADOR MIROSHNICHENKO, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DCM
KASATKIN AND HIS COUNSELOR FOR UNEP AFFAIRS DANILOW STRESSED
THAT UNEP'S ROLE SHOULD BE MAINLY COORDINATIVE AND CATALYTIC.
THEY AGREED THAT PRIMARY EMPHASIS OF UNEP PROGRAMS SHOULD
BE THOSE OF A GLOBAL OR REGIONAL NATURE AND THAT THE ORGANIZ-
ATION SHOULD AVOID A PLETHORA OF SMALL PROJECTS. IN PARTIC-
ULAR THEY ENVISAGED A ROLE FOR UNEP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF
NON-WASTEFUL TECHNOLOGIES AND CITED THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE IN
LAKE BAIKAL AREA. THEY ALSO SUPPORTED INCREASED ROLE FOR
UNEP IN ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION FIELD. WHILE GENERAL TENOR
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OF SOVIET REMARKS WERE POSITIVE THEY WERE CRITICAL OF UNEP
FOR EXCESSIVE SECRECY ABOUT PROJECTS, TOO MUCH DOCUMENTATION,
AND TOO HEAVY AN AGENDA FOR GOVERNING COUNCILS. UNLIKE
MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRY MEMBERS WHO FAULT UNEP FOR UNDER-
PERFORMANCE, SOVIETS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT UNEP SPENDING TOO
MUCH.

3. WE EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH MIROSHNICHENKO THAT PRIMARY ROLE FOR UNEP WAS COORDINATION AND CATALYTIC AND THAT GLOBAL AND REGIONAL PROJECTS WERE OF HIGHEST PRIORITY. IN THIS CONNECTION AMBASSADOR POINTED TO IMPORTANT WORK THAT HAD TO BE DONE TO PROTECT THE OCEANS. AT THE SAME TIME, WE POINTED OUT NEED FOR UNEP TO OPERATE AT DIFFERENT LEVELS AND TO BE RESPONSIVE TO PERCEIVED NEEDS OF DEVELOPED AS WELL AS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WE CITED FORTHCOMING OZONE LAYER MEETING AS AN EXAMPLE OF UNEP ACTIVITY WHICH COULD BE OF GREAT BENEFIT TO MANKIND BUT WHICH RESPONDS TO THE VERY SOPHISTICATED INTERESTS OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. AT THE SAME TIME, TO BE SEEN AS CREDIBLE, THE ORGANIZATION COULD NOT IGNORE THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

4. SOVIET AMBASSADOR STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY FOREIGN MINISTER WAIYAKI IN QUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR LOCATING UN HOUSING AND HUMAN SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES IN KENYA. HE AND KASATKIN EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW FAVORABLE TO KENYAN POSITION. WE EXPRESSED US POSITION REGARDING DESIRABILITY OF GATHERING TOGETHER ALL UN ACTIVITIES IN THIS FIELD AND LOCATING THEM NEAR UN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS AND MAJOR FINANCIAL CENTERS. AMBASSADOR MARSHALL TOLD SOVIETS THAT WAIYAKI HAD ALSO RAISED THIS ISSUE WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG DURING HIS RECENT STOP IN NAIROBI.

5. CONCLUSION OF LUNCHEON WAS IN FORM OF SOVIET SUGGESTION THAT WE CONSULT MORE CLOSELY ON UNEP MATTERS AND IN PARTICULAR THAT WE MEET AGAIN PRIOR TO GC V. WE INVITED SOVIETS TO LET US KNOW IF THERE WERE PARTICULAR SUBJECTS THAT THEY WOULD LIKE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO DISCUSS AND AMBASSADOR MARSHALL AGREED TO HOST A LUNCHEON DURING THE THIRD WEEK OF MARCH.

6. IN LIGHT OF RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL OF INTEREST THAT SOVIETS HAVE TAKEN IN UNEP TO DATE, EMBASSY TENDS TO VIEW THIS SOVIET INVITATION AS PART OF AN EFFORT TO IDENTIFY WITH US IN A BILATERAL CONTEXT RATHER THAN AN INCREASED INTEREST ON THEIR PART IN UNEP ALTHOUGH LATTER INTERPRETATION CANNOT BE RULED OUT.

DECON 1-1-79.
MARSHALL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NAIROB01952
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770053-0111
Format: TEL
From: NAIROBI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770241/aaaabjwv.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 243ccec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3320174
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET INTEREST IN WORKING MORE CLOSELY WITH US ON UNEP MATTERS - A MULTILATERAL OR A BILATERAL INTEREST?
TAGS: SENV, UR, US, UNEP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/243ccec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009